

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 008614

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFOR, ET, FT, FR

SUBJECT: US POSITION ON DJIBOUTI INDEPENDENCE

REF: ADDIS ABABA 110

1. IMPROVED EPMG/GOF RELATIONS PREDICTED BY BERHANU DINKA
IN REFTTEL WELCOME NEWS, BUT WE ARE DISTURBED BY HIS CONTRA-
DICTORY STATEMENT THAT US HAD NOT DONE ANYTHING AND WAS
NOT DOING ENOUGH CONCERNING DJIBOUTI. WHILE USG IS NOT
PRINCIPAL ACTOR IN DJIBOUTI QUESTION, YOU MAY REMIND HIM
WE ON PUBLIC RECORD IN SUPPORT OF STEPS LEADING TO PEACE-
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FUL TRANSITION TO INDEPENDENCE AND CREATION OF CONDITIONS
NECESSARY TO MAINTAIN LONG-TERM INDEPENDENCE OF DJIBOUTI.
OUR PUBLIC POSITION FURTHER EMPHASIZED IN STATEMENT MADE
DECEMBER 1 AT UN IN EXPLANATION OF OUR ABSTENSION ON FTAI
RESOLUTION, TEXT OF WHICH WE ASSUMED EPMG NOTED AT TIME,
BUT WHICH YOU MIGHT FIND USEFUL TO PASS TO BERHANU.

2. TEXT FOLLOWS: QUOTE. ALTHOUGH THE UNITED STATES HAS ABSTAINED IN THE VOTE ON THE DJIBOUTI RESOLUTION, WE FIND THE RESOLUTION IN MANY RESPECTS TO BE A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO THE PASSAGE OF DJIBOUTI TO INDEPENDENCE.

WE ARE ENCOURAGED BY THE SUPPORT WHICH THE STEPS ANNOUNCED BY FRANCE HAVE GENERALLY RECEIVED, AND WE HOPE THAT THIS WILL ENHANCE THE POSSIBILITIES FOR A PEACEFUL TRANSITION TO INDEPENDENCE. WE BELIEVE IT IS IMPORTANT TO USE THIS FORUM TO SUPPORT FRENCH EFFORTS RATHER THAN TO MAKE UN-REALISTIC DEMANDS. ACCORDINGLY, WE HAVE RESERVATIONS ABOUT OPERATIVE PARAGRAPH 7. UNTIL INDEPENDENCE, FRANCE REMAINS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SECURITY OF THE TERRITORY AND, UNTIL THEN, SECURITY DECISIONS SHOULD BE LEFT TO HER JUDGMENT. AFTER INDEPENDENCE, THE QUESTION CAN ONLY BE PROPERLY ADDRESSED BY THE SUCCESSOR GOVERNMENT.

THAT BEING SAID, MY GOVERNMENT CONCURS IN A NUMBER OF POINTS MADE IN THE RESOLUTION, PARTICULARLY THE REFERENCE TO THE SOLEMN DECLARATIONS OF THE ETHIOPIAN AND SOMALI DELEGATIONS TO RECOGNIZE, RESPECT, AND HONOR THE INDEPENDENCE AND SOVEREIGNTY OF DJIBOUTI AND ITS TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AFTER ITS ACCESSION TO INDEPENDENCE. GIVEN THE GEOGRAPHY AND HISTORY OF THE AREA, WE UNDERSTAND THE CONCERN OF NEIGHBORING STATES AND WE THEREFORE SUPPORT MOVES BY ALL PARTIES TO FOSTER THE LONG-TERM INDEPENDENCE OF DJIBOUTI. AT THE SAME TIME, WE WISH TO ASSOCIATE OUR-CONFIDENTIAL

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SELVES WITH THE CALL UPON ALL STATES TO REFRAIN FROM INTERFERING IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF THE TERRITORY AND TO ABSTAIN FROM ANY ACTION LIKELY TO IMPEDE OR ADVERSELY AFFECT THE PRESENT PROCESSES OF THE COUNTRY'S ACCESSION TO INDEPENDENCE.

WE WOULD URGE, AS THIS RESOLUTION RECOMMENDS, THAT ALL MEMBER STATES, THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS COOPERATE WITH THE ADMINISTERING POWER TO RENDER ALL POSSIBLE MORAL AND MATERIAL ASSISTANCE TO THE PEOPLE OF THE TERRITORY. WE ARE ENCOURAGED BY THE FACT THAT SOMALIA AND ETHIOPIA HAVE JOINED TO SPONSOR A COMMON RESOLUTION, AND WE HOPE THAT FURTHER COOPERATION BY ALL CONCERNED WILL PERMIT US TO WELCOME THE REPRESENTATIVES OF AN INDEPENDENT DJIBOUTI TO THE FAMILY OF NATIONS. END QUOTE.

3. YOU MAY ADD THAT WE BELIEVE OUR POSITION ON DJIBOUTI IS PARALLEL TO INTERESTS OF EPMG ON THIS QUESTION, BUT IN THIS, AS IN OTHER MATTERS, WE BELIEVE POLICY-LEVEL

EXCHANGES WOULD IMPROVE THE COORDINATION OF POLICIES PROMOTING OUR COMMON INTERESTS.
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